

Elmhurst Park District Meeting
June 25, 2014
7:00-9:32

Observer: Ricky Dufort

Present: President Carolyn Ubriaco, Vice President Vince Spaeth, Commissioner Anthony Pelosi, Commissioner Mary Kies, Commissioner Colette Kubiesa, Commissioner Patricia Morissette-Moll, and Commissioner Bob Howard. The Executive Director of the Park District Jim Rogers along with 7 Staff members. There were 23 residents that attended the meeting.

1) President Ubriaco called the meeting to order at 7:00

2) Additions/Deletions/Changes to Agenda

- a) Add storm water retention management update
- b) Seminole Property Vetting added to future agenda

3) Remarks/Correspondents from Visitors

- a) First, three written letters from Elmhurst Residents who described that the flooding is out of control and how the floodwaters are not properly handled. Also the written letters described how dangerous the flooding really is and how the entire community needs.
- b) CJ a resident of Elmhurst started the visitor remarks. CJ said that Butterfield Park has a huge flood issue, and that the Elmhurst College ball field should be open to everyone. Cj also mentioned that York Tavern should be moved to Wilder Park, and that the flood plan is short sided because the plan is limited to 4 to 6 inches or rain and will not help with continuous events.
- c) Dave R then said that a park being used for flooding is disappointing to residents. He said parks should be protected and that private property should not be a retention pond for park district water.
- d) Dave McKenna said that Crescent Street is constantly flooding and York Commons has 38 homes that go under water. He said that 100% of the homes would not flood if York Commons were used.
- e) David K said that each of the floods ruined homes, cars, and residents were stuck in their homes.
- f) Kylie H said that she had to shovel debris to desperately keep the sewers working.
- g) Jill B said that her basement flooded with 8 ft. of water and then did a lot of work to have the next rain flood only 5 ft.
- h) Kathleen S said that the cities plan to use Golden Meadows engineering report was offensive. The report saying Golden Meadows would not help many people she said was offensive to her and other residents.
- i) Cheryl J said that residents had to watch the water rising on their street and neighbors are desperate to find solution.
- j) Mark H said that more storms are calling for a solution that may not have been important many years ago. Mark said he had to take off work because he could not get out to his car during the first flood. Mark mentioned that he was able to remove the top of the storm drain to drain his whole street in ten minutes.

- k) Carlton R said that the storm sewers are too small, and that other neighborhoods are flowing into Elmhurst. Carlton then said that the water is flowing up from the storm sewers and that the park district should use Golden Meadows because the storm sewers are filling up to quickly.
- l) Mark B then concluded by saying that the problem is a multi branch problem in the city. All three branches, the park district, the city, and the school board should work together.

4) Committee Reports

- a) Elmhurst Art Museum
- b) Gateway- Member of association to aid individuals with special needs and needs 1.5% increase on budget for fiscal year.
- c) PEP- Reviewed golf outing, and Parkapalooza progressing well.
- d) Sugar Creek Golf Course- Junior camp is in second week, father day weekend was a success, and there are positive revenues year to date. There was also an increase in cart sales. The course has seen 8 inches of rain as they approach the forty-year anniversary of the course.

5) Upcoming Committee Meetings

- a) Gateway – July 10, 2014
- b) Elmhurst Art Museum – August 20, 2014
- c) PEP – July 24, 2014
- d) Sugar Creek Golf Course – July 22, 2014
- e) Stormwater Sub Committee – July 8, 2014
- f) Lizzardo Museum – November 2014

6) Consent Agenda (The vote to approve was unanimous)

- a) Approval of June 11, 2014 Regular Meeting Minutes
- b) Approval of June 11, 2014 Closed Meeting Minutes
- c) Voucher Lists

7) Board Business

a) Old Business

i) Retention Issues

(1) President Ubriaco attended the public works meeting and have begun the efforts to make sure a clear statement of what is done is established- August 2013 was the preliminary storm water retention ideas. Commissioner Spaeth and Commissioner Howard met with the Alderman to appoint V3 to provide expertise on dealing with the issues of storm water retention in Elmhurst. Jim Rogers then said that City Manager and himself would meet with the V3 to address concerns.

(2) Commissioner Spaeth said that he truly cares about the flooding issue, but wants to find a long-term solution. He said he feels V3 is making progress and they are finding good controls for floodwater. He then explained that Crescent residents have 8 acres when York Commons has only 3 acres of storage and could possibly push the issue somewhere else. Spaeth wants all three boards to be involved instead of just the park district and city board.

- (3) Commissioner Kubiesa was then concerned with Cayuga and how using York Commons, as a means of water retention would affect the street.
- (4) Commissioner Howard said his part of Geneva Street the storm sewers also have water coming up and said the board needs to find multiple solutions because not only one solution will fix all of the problems.
- (5) Commissioner Kies explained how she had three feet of water in her yard. She said that due to the topography of her yard, she could not do anything. She believes the codes need to be investigated and would rather work on sewers than use parks.
- (6) Commissioner Moll said that the park district is ready to move forward.
- (7) Commissioner Howard then addressed the whole room by saying that it is very important that residents come to meetings and stay on members to keep moving forward.
- (8) Commissioner Pelosi said that the residents want to know what the next step is.
- (9) Jim Rogers then said that V3 will not move forward until the next meeting on Monday. He said York Commons is at depth zero, which means York Commons will take on water instantly and that it needs to be raised.

ii) Wilder Park Conservatory and Greenhouse Project – Final Status Report

- (1) Jim Rogers was pleased to announce that the project was finished.
- (a) Angela said all steps are finished. Phase 1 was to get the assessments in 2003 to see preliminary work that needed to be done. Phase 2 was the construction costs of 2.7 million dollars that was 73,000 dollars under budget. The project was under budget because the proper engineering steps. Angela asked the commissioners to review the final status report to execute the last change order of \$34,801. The vote to approve was unanimous.

b) New Business

i) Conservation Foundation – Dan Lobbes and Jan Roehll

- (1) Dan said that all the residents of Elmhurst want a livable community with clear air, clean water, and green spaces. The Conservation Foundation was founded in 1972 by business and civil leaders as a non-profit. There are 3,500 members who work in Dupage, Kane, Kendall, and Will County. Dan said the core areas of the foundation is open space protection, water shed protection, education, and conservation at home. Dan mentioned they work with private and public agencies to preserve land.
- (2) Moving on to how Elmhurst could benefit from, Dan said that the foundation is working on a meadow mix that would substitute for grass that can take care of initial rain absorption. Also Dan suggested the use of rain barrels and planting native plants to absorb water. Dan then explained the buy and hold program where the foundation will

buy the property and hold the property for the interested party until they manage to get the funding for the property. Commissioner Spaeth then mentioned the 413 S. York as a possible buy and hold program property. Jan concluded the presentation by saying that people are trying to sell along Salt Creek and do not want to work with government agencies, but would work with the foundation because they are a non-profit.

8) Announcements

- a) Commissioner Kies announced that a park bench was donated with a monarch way station very close by.
- b) President Ubriaco stated that the overview of Courts Plus expansion, Sugar Creek golf course debt, cell phone usage at board meetings, and storm water conclusion of V3 study should be discussed in future Agendas. Jim Rogers explained that the V3 study would be done at an undetermined time. Commissioner Howard said he wants there to be more voting instead of just talking about agenda items. Commissioner Spaeth then said that educated meetings are needed to get everyone up to speed and issues need to be talked about. President Ubriaco feels the board needs to proper answers to make the informed decisions. Commissioner Spaeth said that the park district is ready to move forward and should not hold up any projects and just dive into any project they can complete.

9) The meeting was adjourned at 9:32 P.M.